

CLAIM LISTING:

1.-35. (*Canceled*)

36. (*Previously Amended*) A kit for performing a procedure on a spine, the spine including an epidural space containing a thecal sac, the kit comprising: an insertion member for accessing the epidural space, the insertion member comprising a handle; an expandable device adapted to be inserted into the epidural space by the insertion member and expanded so as to compress a portion of the thecal sac and provide a safety zone within the epidural space, the expandable device comprising a handle; and a tool including means for engaging the ligamentum flavum and means for resecting a section of the ligamentum flavum, wherein the insertion member handle and the expandable device handle do not form a composite handle.

37. (*Original*) The kit according to claim 36 wherein said tool comprises: a cannula having a side aperture proximal its distal end; a barbed member coaxially received within said cannula; and a cutting member received on said cannula.

38. (*Original*) The kit according to claim 36 wherein said kit further includes means for engaging a first anatomical structure and means for affixing said first anatomical structure to a second anatomical structure.

39. (*Original*) The kit according to claim 36 wherein said kit further includes means for engaging and retracting the ligamentum flavum and means for anchoring the retracted ligamentum flavum.

40. (*New*) A kit for performing a procedure on a spine, the spine including an epidural space containing a thecal sac, the kit comprising: an insertion member for accessing the epidural space: an expandable device adapted to be inserted into the epidural space by the insertion member and expanded so as to compress a portion of the thecal sac and provide a safety zone within the epidural space; and a tool adaptable to engage the ligamentum flavum and further adaptable to resect a section of the ligamentum flavum, wherein the insertion member handle and the expandable device handle do not form a composite handle.

41. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 40 wherein the tool comprises a needle and a hook.

42. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 40 wherein the tool comprises a trocar, a barbed member, and a blade.

43. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 40 further comprising an injectable medium.

44. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 43 wherein the injectable medium is a gel.

45. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 44 wherein the gel is a re-sorbably water-soluble gel.

46. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 44 wherein the gel is adaptable to be used to visualize the epidural space during a procedure.

47. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 44 wherein the gel comprises a temperature-sensitive polymer.

48. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 44 wherein the gel is adaptable to provide controlled release of at least one therapeutic agent.

49. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 48 wherein the gel is adaptable to treat a lumbar puncture.

50. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 43 wherein the injectable medium is a contrast medium.

51. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 50 wherein the contrast medium is a radio-opaque non-ionic myelographic contrast medium.

52. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 51 wherein the contrast agent comprises an inert base.

53. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 40 further comprising at least one bioactive agent.

54. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 53 wherein the bioactive agent is a therapeutic agent.

55. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 54 wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from at least one of an anti-inflammatory agent or an anesthetic.

56. *(Previously Presented)* The kit of claim 54 wherein the therapeutic agent is a steroid.

57. *(Previously Presented)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein said expandable device comprises a volume of a contrast medium.

58. *(Previously Presented)* The kit according to claim 57 wherein the contrast medium comprises a radio-opaque non-ionic myelographic contrast medium.

59. *(Previously Presented)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein said expandable device comprises a volume of a medium that is injectable at ambient temperatures and more viscous at body temperature.

60. *(Previously Presented)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein said expandable device includes a bioactive agent.

61. *(Previously Presented)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein the contrast medium includes a steroid.

62. *(Previously Presented)* The kit according to claim 36 wherein said tool comprises:
a cannulated scalpel having a side aperture proximal its distal end;
an elongate body housed within said cannulated scalpel and comprising two radially extendable arms constructed such that radially extending said arms causes them to extend outward through said side aperture and retracting said arms causes them to close.